



88005526

STATELINE
INTENSIVE WILDERNESS INVENTORY
PROPOSED DECISION

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
OREGON - IDAHO - NEVADA - UTAH
APRIL 1981

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INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has completed the inventory phase of the wilderness review of public lands in the Stateline area (where Idaho joins with Oregon, Nevada, and Utah).

The Stateline area inventory was not completed with the Statewide inventories for each state, due to appeals received in Idaho on all of the Idaho Stateline inventory units that were proposed for intensive inventory. Although the states adjoining Idaho released their proposed inventory decisions in the Spring of 1980, they have withheld their final decisions pending the analysis of public comments on this joint Statewide report. Public comments received by the Oregon, Nevada, and Utah BLM offices during their 1980 90-day comment period on their proposed decisions were utilized to formulate this coordinated proposed decision now being released.

The release of this report marks the beginning of a 90-day comment period on the proposed decision on the Stateline intensive inventory.

Pages 3 and 4 of this report indicate the dates of the comment period, where comments should be sent, and the locations of workshops or open houses on these proposed decisions.

Contained within this report are the Bureau of Land Management's proposed decisions on those BLM-administered lands in the Stateline area (where Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, and Utah meet), which qualify as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) and those which do not. Note that BLM is not at this time recommending that these areas should or should not be designated wilderness by Congress. BLM has determined that some inventory units contain wilderness characteristics as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964 and that some do not. The areas that meet these characteristics are proposed as WSA's and will be later studied to determine whether or not they are suitable for wilderness. Every WSA will be reviewed and acted upon by Congress after the studies are complete, whether the BLM deems them suitable for designation as wilderness or not.

These proposed decisions are the result of intensive inventory field work. Procedures for evaluating wilderness characteristics are noted in the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook, September 1978, and in Organic Act Directive 78-61, including changes 1, 2, and 3, and Instruction Memo No. 80-236.

The narratives included here are summaries of more detailed intensive inventory reports available in the BLM district offices. These summaries present a brief, overall picture of the intensive inventory proposed decisions. For more detailed, site specific information, refer to the district files. More detailed maps and photographs are also contained in these files.

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STATELINE
INTENSIVE INVENTORY PROPOSED DECISION

Unit		Acres			Page
Name	Number	Proposed As WSA	Not Proposed As WSA	Total	
Juniper Basin <u>1</u> /	ID-16-59		15,248	15,248	16
Little Owyhee River <u>1</u> /	ID-16-48c	24,677	2,140	26,817	19
Lookout Butte	OR-3-194A		65,640	65,640	24
	ID-16-48a		39,200	39,200	
	Unit Total		104,840	104,840	
Owyhee River Canyon	OR-3-195	195,400	21,280	216,680	28
	ID-16-48b	33,700		33,700	
	Unit Total	229,100	21,280	250,380	
Oregon Butte	OR-3-159		32,440	32,440	39
	NV-020-811		10,680	10,680	
	ID-16-70e		3,400	3,400	
	Unit Total		46,520	46,520	
Cottonwood-Salmon Falls	NV-010-179		11,790	11,790	43
	ID-17-26		5,977	5,977	
	Unit Total		17,767	17,767	
Upper Little Owyhee River	NV-010-102		53,280	53,280	46
	ID-16-56a		4,309	4,309	
	Unit Total		57,589	57,589	
Jarbridge Addition <u>1</u> /	ID-17-21		5,881	5,881	49
Upper Bruneau River <u>1</u> /	ID-17-19		21,711	21,711	52
South Fork Owyhee River	ID-16-53	42,510	5,550	48,060	56
	NV-010-103A	7,380	3,500	10,880	
	NV-010-103		8,960	8,960	
	Unit Total	49,890	18,010	67,900	
Little Goose Creek	NV-010-164		7,695	7,695	63
	ID-22-1		2,325	2,325	
	UT-020-001		1,330	1,330	
	Unit Total		11,350	11,350	

1/ This unit is administered entirely by Idaho BLM.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. Public Comment Period

The 90-day public comment period on the intensive inventory begins on April 8, 1981, and will end on July 7, 1981. The following open houses and workshops will be held for the purpose of exchanging information with the public:

April 15, 1981	BLM District Office First Floor Conference Room 3948 Development Way Boise, Idaho 12:00 - 7:30 PM Workshop - Open House
April 16, 1981	Owyhee County Agent's Office Marsing, Idaho 12:00 - 7:30 PM Workshop - Open House
April 22, 1981	American Legion Hall Bruneau, Idaho 12:00 - 7:30 PM Workshop - Open House
April 23, 1981	The Lion's Den Jordan Valley, Oregon 12:00 - 7:30 PM Workshop - Open House
April 27, 1981	BLM District Office Elko, Nevada 1:00 - 4:30 PM Open House
April 29, 1981	BLM District Office 200 South Oakley Highway Burley, Idaho 1:00 - 8:00 PM Open House
May 6, 1981	College of South Idaho Cafeteria Conference Room, Second Floor Twin Falls, Idaho 1:00 - 8:00 PM Open House

NOTE: The April 15, 16, and 22 Workshops - Open Houses will each be followed at 7:30 by a formal meeting on issue identification and wilderness planning criteria for all of the Wilderness Study Areas in the Boise District.

B. BLM Office Addresses

Written comments should be sent to the office(s) having responsibility for a particular unit.

Idaho State Office
Box 042, Federal Building
550 W. Fort Street
Boise, Idaho 83724

Boise District Office
3948 Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

Oregon State Office
P. O. Box 2965
Portland, Oregon 97208

Vale District Office
P. O. Box 700
Vale, Oregon 97918

Nevada State Office
P. O. Box 12000
Reno, Nevada 89520

Winnemucca District Office
705 East 4th Street
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

Elko District Office
P. O. Box 831
Elko, Nevada 89801

Utah State Office
University Club Building
136 East South Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Salt Lake District Office
2370 South 2300 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84119

Comments should be unit-specific to be utilized in the intensive inventory decision. General statements on characteristics as well as opinions for or against wilderness will be retained for use later in the study phase.

One comment specific to wilderness characteristics that offers the BLM new information or that sheds new light on an issue can change the decision on an inventory unit. Conversely, large numbers of comments opposing or supporting study area designation without reference to the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics, will have little or no affect on the final decision.

Information concerning other resource values and potential resource conflicts in the inventory units will not be considered until the study phase of the wilderness review and will not affect the inventory decision. The intent of the public comment period is to gather ideas on the adequacy of the inventory data and the correctness of the recommendations.

Documents and maps describing the Bureau's proposed decision are being sent to everyone indicating an interest in the wilderness program. The public is asked to comment on the wilderness characteristics as described in the Wilderness Act, namely--size, naturalness, outstanding solitude or outstanding primitive recreation opportunities, and supplemental values.

The analysis of comments will not involve "vote-counting." Comments will be examined for their informational value regarding the **wilderness** characteristics of an inventory unit.

Information provided by the public will be carefully considered and changes made when the comments reveal the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics that the BLM had not identified. The factors evaluated in the intensive inventory are somewhat subjective, so public input will be critical in making these difficult decisions.

All areas identified as Wilderness Study Areas will be further analyzed through the Bureau's Planning Process to determine which areas should receive suitable or non-suitable recommendations for wilderness designation. These recommendations will eventually be forwarded to Congress for the final decision on possible designation of areas into the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Note: All Idaho areas are in the Boise District.
All Oregon areas are in the Vale District.
The Utah area is in the Salt Lake District.
Nevada areas are in the Elko District except for Unit NV-020-811, in the Winnemucca District.

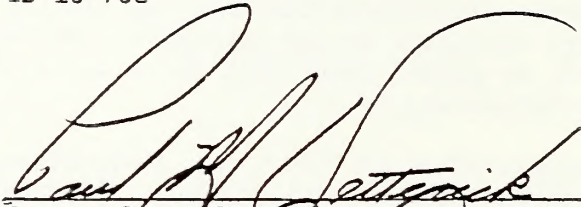
State prefix letters are:	OR - Oregon
	ID - Idaho
	NV - Nevada
	UT - Utah

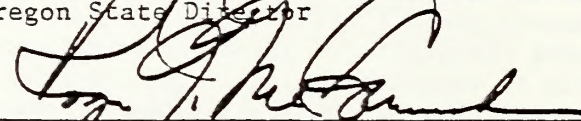
OREGON - NEVADA - IDAHO

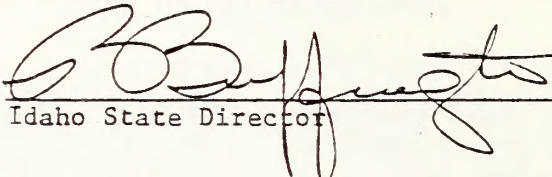
The following unit contains BLM lands in Oregon, Nevada, and Idaho, and is recommended as lacking in wilderness characteristics:

Oregon Butte

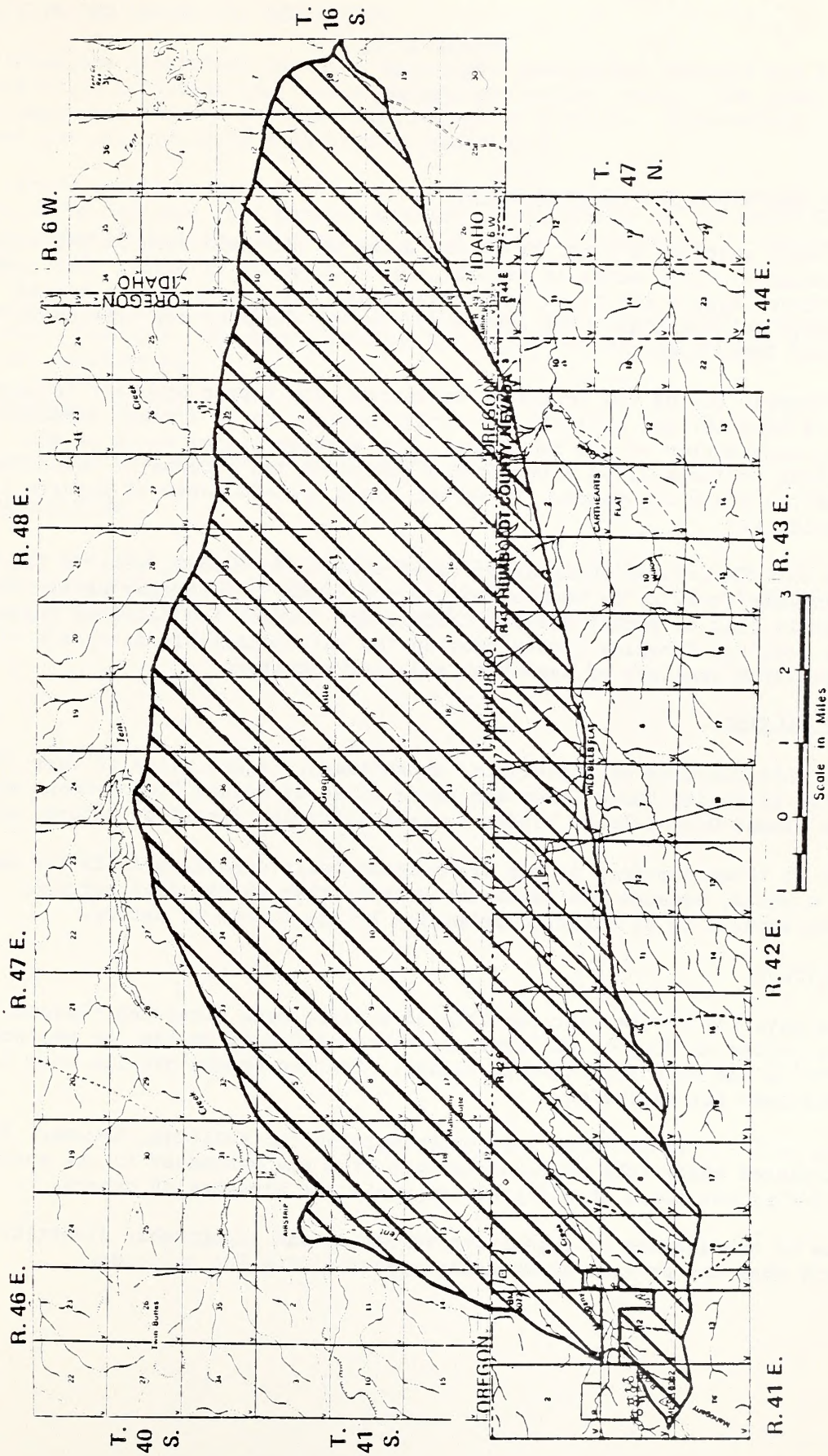
OR-3-159
NV-020-811
ID-16-70e


Associate Oregon State Director


Associate Nevada State Director


Idaho State Director

OREGON BUTTE
OR-3-159
NV-020-811
ID-16-70e



LEGEND

- WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
- ▨ AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

OREGON BUTTE
OR-3-159
NV-020-811
ID-16-70e

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains a total of 46,520 acres of BLM land with 32,440 acres in Oregon, 10,680 acres in Nevada, and 3,400 acres in Idaho. Differences in these figures and those used previously, are due to more accurate acreage calculations. The Nevada portion of the unit was previously called Tent Creek.

In Oregon, during the intensive inventory, the former boundary between units OR-3-187 and OR-3-159 was determined not to be a road, resulting in a combination of the two areas. The acreage listed above as BLM acreage includes 2,200 acres Oregon BLM is in the process of acquiring from the State of Oregon. In Nevada there are 400 acres of private land inholdings.

The unit is bounded entirely by roads except for a small area in the southwest where it is bounded by private lands. Topography within the unit is flat to gently rolling tablelands. Oregon and Mahogany Buttes, and Tent and Mahogany Creeks provide the only noticeable diversity of relief. Vegetation consists of sagebrush and native grasses.

NATURALNESS:

The unit contains one reservoir, approximately eight miles of ways, 19 miles of bladed fence lines and three miles of bladed Oregon-Idaho stateline. The bladed Oregon-Idaho border is rehabilitating itself by natural processes.

All of these imprints of man are substantially unnoticeable in the unit as a whole, because the sagebrush screens them on the flat terrain. The unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature.

SOLITUDE:

The majority of the unit consists of a flat, open sagebrush plateau. The two buttes in Oregon, and Tent and Mahogany Creeks on the far western side, provide the only variation in relief. The two creeks provide only limited locations for seclusion.

The unit's size provides some opportunities for solitude, however, the elongated shape (the maximum distance from the perimeter to the core is 2 1/2 miles) makes it difficult to avoid the presence of others.

Due to the absence of vegetative screening and topographic diversity, the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The inventory determined that the unit lacks exceptional scenery and a diversity of landforms that would attract recreation users. The open, flat sagebrush terrain provides limited scenic quality. Backpacking across the unit would be a monotonous experience.

The narrow configuration of the unit would force primitive recreation users to be confined in a narrow corridor at the center of the unit, or in the creek drainages, in order to avoid external influences or boundary roads.

Because of the unit's narrow configuration, in combination with the lack of scenic features, the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains no known supplemental values.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although the unit retains a generally natural appearance, it does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area, due to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

IDAHO - NEVADA

The following units contain BLM lands in Idaho and Nevada:

Recommended As Lacking In Wilderness Characteristics

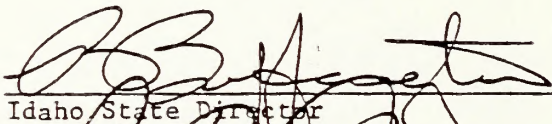
Cottonwood-Salmon Falls	NV-010-179 ID-17-26
Upper Little Owyhee River	NV-010-102 ID-16-56a
Jarbridge Addition*	ID-17-21
Upper Bruneau River*	ID-17-19

Recommended As Wilderness Study Area

South Fork Owyhee River**	ID-16-53 NV-010-103A
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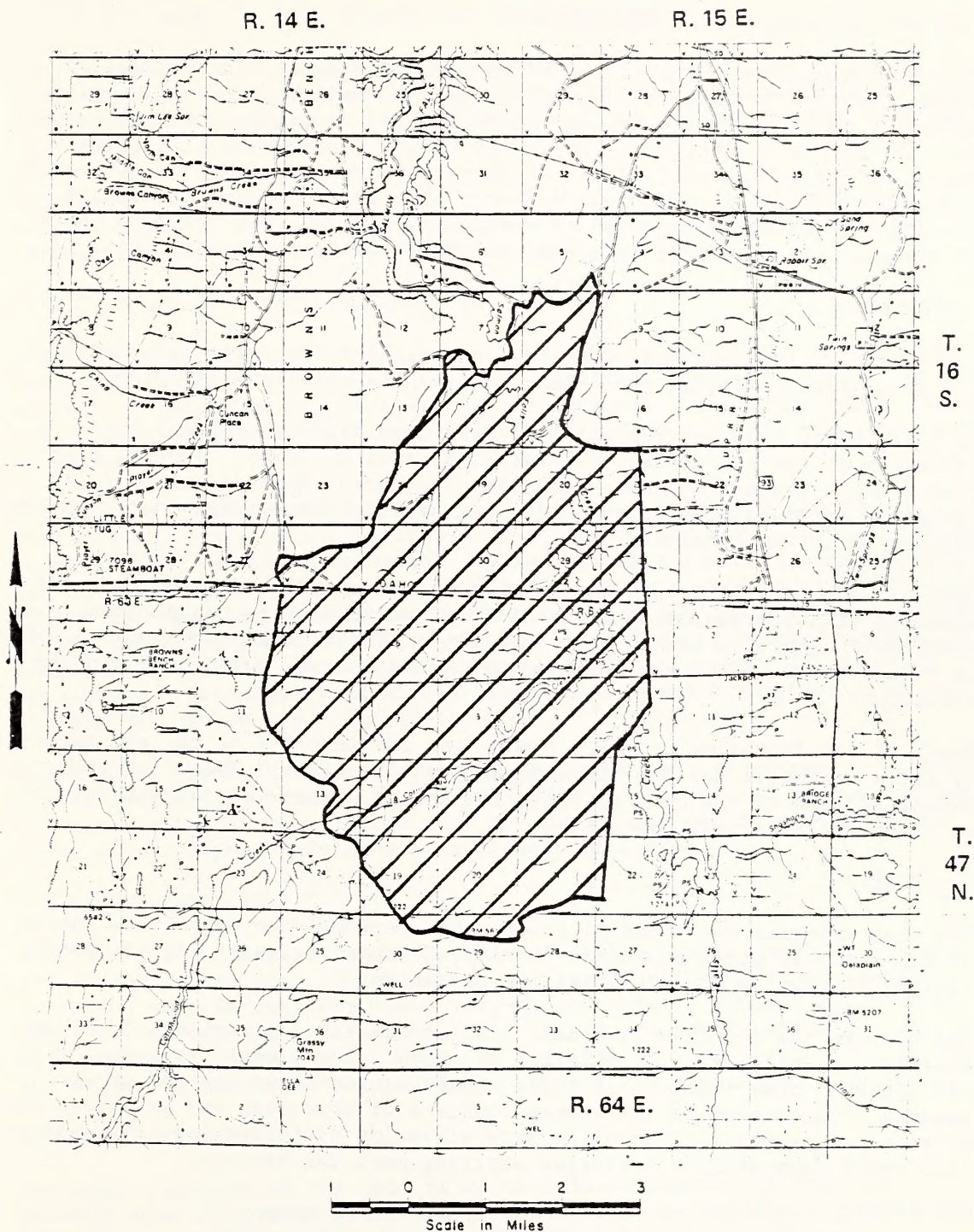
* This unit is administered entirely by Idaho BLM.

** Portions of this unit and all of adjacent unit NV-010-103 are recommended as lacking in wilderness characteristics.




Idaho State Director


Associate Nevada State Director

COTTONWOOD-SALMON FALLS
NV-010-179
ID-17-26



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

COTTONWOOD-SALMON FALLS

NV-010-179

ID-17-26

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains a total of 17,767 acres of BLM land; 11,790 acres in Nevada, and 5,977 acres in Idaho. The unit is located about three miles northwest of Jackpot, Nevada, and contains flat to rolling terrain except for the canyons of Cottonwood Creek and Salmon Falls Creek. In these drainages the canyon walls fall off sharply to the perennial creeks which total about 20 miles. Four short cherry-stem roads penetrate into the eastern and western boundaries of the unit in Idaho. One 900-acre parcel in the south is separated by a road and does not meet the size criterion.

NATURALNESS:

One parcel in the southeast portion, containing 1,700 acres is unnatural due to a crested wheatgrass seeding and a three-mile long pipeline.

In addition to the cherry-stem roads mentioned earlier, several ways penetrate to the rim across the eastern plateau in Idaho. Several drift fences and a Stateline fence are within the unit. West of Salmon Falls Creek the imprints of man are so few and so widely scattered that they are substantially unnoticeable.

East of Salmon Falls Creek, man's imprints, in combination with the overwhelming visual presence of adjacent boundary powerlines, render the northeastern portion of the unit unnatural. These same powerlines can also be viewed from much of the northwestern plateau area, due to the sloping terrain.

South of the Stateline boundary fence, the few imprints of man are separated by large distances and are substantially unnoticeable. Therefore, the Nevada portion of the unit as well as the land within the canyons retains an essentially natural appearance.

SOLITUDE:

The unit contains two types of topographic regions--the meandering canyon of Salmon Falls Creek and its tributary, Cottonwood Creek; and the gently rolling plateau region dissected by the canyon.

The canyons are typified by broad, heavily vegetated riparian bottomland, confined by sheer walls or moderate to steep talus slopes. Vegetation in the riparian area consists of large, dense stands of willow and grassy meadows. Vegetation on the slopes consists of sagebrush and grasses. The plateau has gently rolling hills with elevation differences of 100 feet or less which form shallow drainages emptying into the canyons.

The canyon of Salmon Falls Creek, and to a lesser extent Cottonwood Creek, would concentrate visitors into a narrow corridor and increase the potential for visitor contact. The meandering character of the canyons, in combination with tall dense riparian vegetation, provides screening between visitors using the canyons. However, because of the relatively short length of canyon within the unit, visitor interaction could be high.

The plateau, with limited topographic relief and vegetation, fails to screen substantial external influences (powerlines, trains, vehicle traffic) from view over much of the unit and renders the opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

Because of the strong corridor effect of the canyon, the limited size and screening provided by the plateau, and the presence of significant external influences, opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Possible recreation activities include hunting, sightseeing, photography, canoeing, rafting, hiking, and camping. Hunting is available for deer and chukar. Sightseeing and photography subjects are high in the unit. Canoeing and rafting opportunities are moderate. Hiking and camping along the drainages is good.

The canyons of Salmon Falls Creek and Cottonwood Creek are considered scenic due largely to the water courses and riparian vegetation set against the talus slopes and sheer walls. These canyons offer a variety in form, color, and texture. The gentle to moderate terrain over much of the unit offers easy mobility throughout the entire unit, particularly into and out of the canyons. However, due to the lack of any major scenic features or attractions outside the canyon, and the significant impact of external influences over large areas of the plateau, recreation opportunities outside the canyon are very limited.

Despite the presence of scenic natural features and the recreation attractions of the canyons, opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not outstanding because of the need to remain confined to a short canyon to enjoy a recreation experience in a natural landscape.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit's supplemental values include wildlife, scenic, ecological, and archaeological values. The habitats of five sensitive species (western burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, long-billed curlew, bobcat, and spotted bat), and one endangered species (bald eagle) are found within the unit as well as winter range for antelope and mule deer. Prehistoric cultural values and scenic values associated with the canyons are considered significant.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a portion of the unit is natural in character, it does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

UPPER LITTLE OWYHEE RIVER
NV-010-102
ID-16-56a

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains a total of 57,589 acres of BLM land, with 53,280 acres in Nevada and 4,309 acres in Idaho. The unit is located approximately 95 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada.

The canyon of the Little Owyhee River trends northward through the unit. This canyon is joined by the drainages of Lake Creek and Willow Creek, both in Nevada. The rolling hills of Star Valley Ridge dominate the eastern portion of the unit. Big sagebrush and grasses dominate the vegetation in the unit.

NATURALNESS:

The unit generally appears natural because the nine small reservoirs and 18 miles of ways are not substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole. Fourteen miles of bladed fence lines are scattered throughout the unit. These fence lines are substantially unnoticeable in the unit as a whole, however, when in close proximity they are easily seen.

Except for the stateline bladed fence line, the Idaho portion of the unit lacks imprints of man.

SOLITUDE:

The unit is divided into two types of topographic regions:

- The canyon of the Little Owyhee River which is about 300 feet deep in the north portion of the unit. The canyon is typified by steep to moderate talus slopes and areas of large rock outcrops, pinnacles or isolated cliffs. There are several minor side drainages. The vegetation in the canyon is sagebrush-grass.

About a mile south of the Idaho-Nevada border, the canyon decreases in depth and the rock outcrops largely disappear until the canyon becomes only a shallow wash near the geographic center of the unit. There are over 15 miles of canyon or major washes within the unit.

- The flat to gently rolling sagebrush plateau. The eastern portion of the plateau is a gently rolling, hilly area dissected by shallow draws 50 to 100 feet deep. These draws drain northeast and southwest from a ridgeline known as Star Valley Ridge.

The western portion of the plateau is relatively flat with several low hills or buttes in the southwest portion.

The inventory determined that the topography of the unit would result in a concentration of visitors in a narrow corridor along the canyon of the Little Owyhee River.

UPPER LITTLE OUYHEE RIVER

NV-010-102

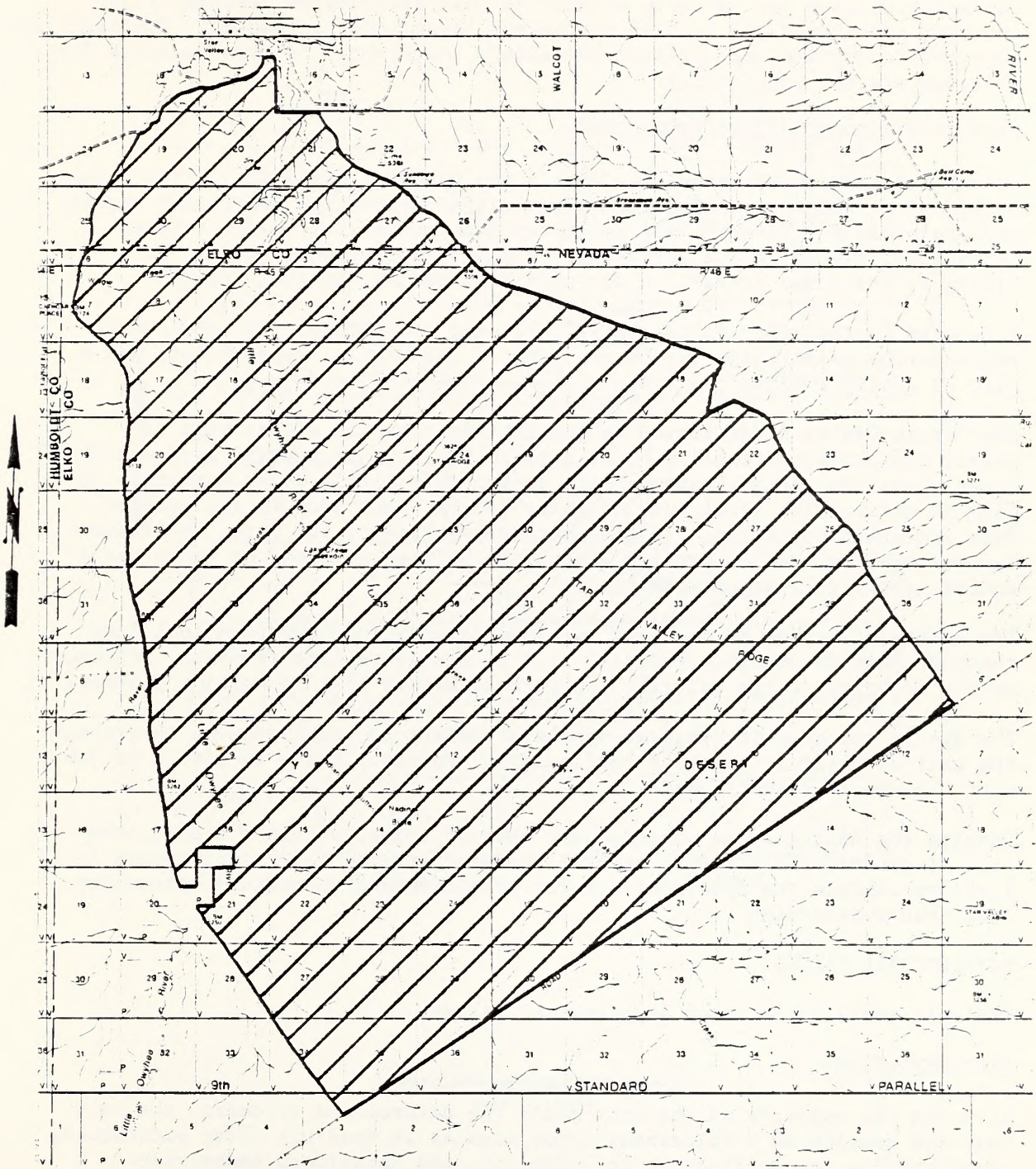
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T. 16 S.

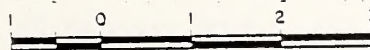
T. 47 N.

T. 46 N.



R. 45 E.

R. 46 E.



Scale in Miles

LEGEND



WILDERNESS STUDY AREA



AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

In the northern portion of the unit, the relatively deep meandering character of the canyon would provide good topographic screening between visitor groups. However, throughout much of the southern portion of the unit, the Little Owyhee River is confined within a shallow, meandering wash. The wash provides little topographic screening.

The opportunities for solitude within the unit are limited because of the corridor effect and the lack of sufficient topographic screening. The sagebrush vegetation provides only limited screening; therefore, the opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Possible recreational activities within the unit include hiking, sightseeing, backpacking, camping, rock climbing, wildlife observation, horseback riding, and photography. However, the inventory determined that the unit lacks exceptional scenery and a diversity of landforms that would result in a strong recreational attraction for primitive recreation activities.

As stated in the solitude narrative, the unit consists of two topographic regions--the talus slope canyon and wash of the Little Owyhee River, and a flat to gently rolling plateau.

The Little Owyhee River Canyon in the northern portion of the unit is scenic but not exceptionally. The pattern of talus slopes and rock outcrops occur along the entire length of the canyon with little or no variation in form or color. The usual lack of water in the river adds to the lack of form and color variation. In the southern portion of the unit, the canyon becomes shallow, and eventually a dry wash. These portions of the river's course have little scenic quality.

The northern portion of the unit has good diversity in landform including canyons, deep to shallow draws and flat to gently rolling plateaus. However, in the majority of the unit the landform is mostly flat to rolling plateau.

The gentle topographic features enable a visitor to easily travel throughout the unit with little sense of confinement. However, there is little in the unit that would attract users.

Despite the unit's large size and the ease of travel within the unit, the lack of exceptionally scenic natural features and the lack of diversity in landform renders the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation less than outstanding.

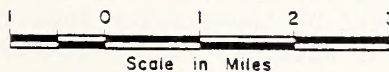
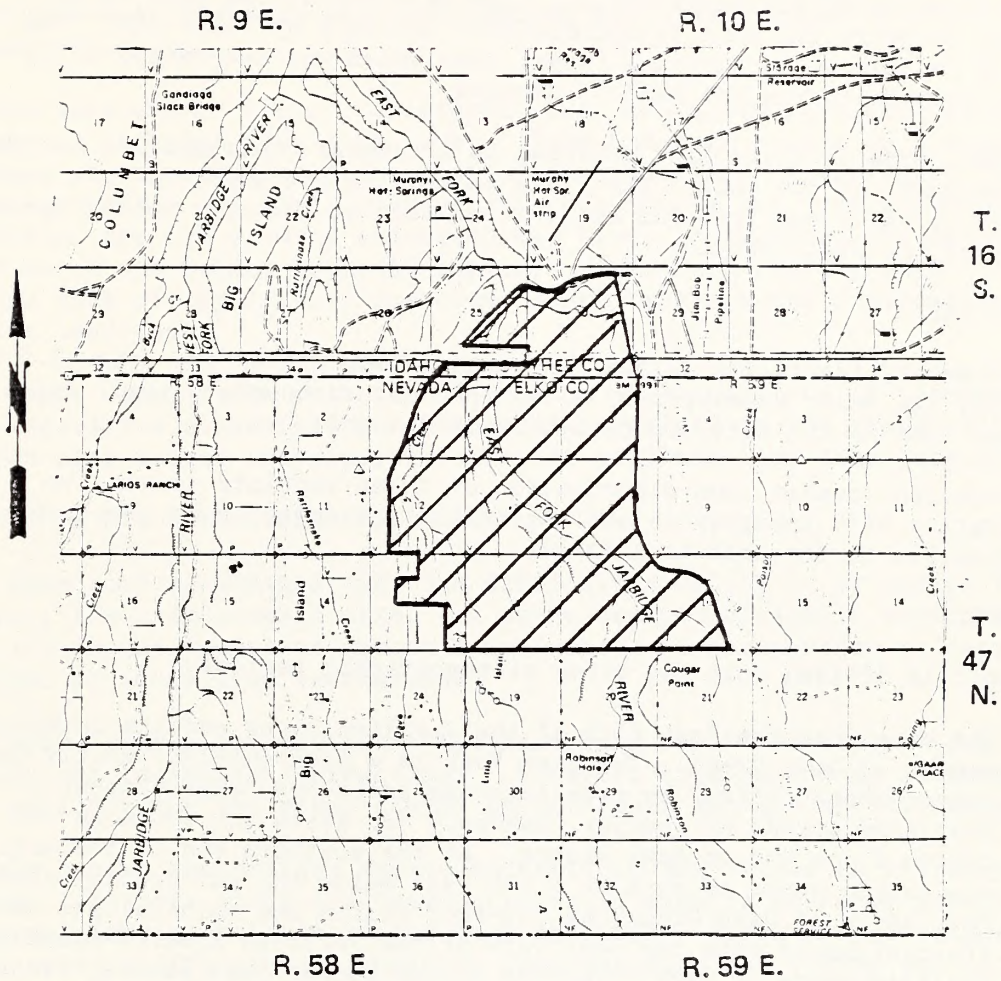
SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The unit contains no known supplemental values.



RECOMMENDATION:

Although the majority of the unit meets the naturalness criteria, the unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area as it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or for primitive and unconfined recreation.

JARBIDGE ADDITION
ID-17-21



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

JARBIDGE ADDITION

ID-17-21

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 5,881 acres of BLM land with land in both the States of Idaho and Nevada. The unit has a triangular configuration four miles by 3 1/2 miles at its widest point. The majority of the unit is in Nevada; however, the unit is administered entirely by Idaho BLM. The unit is contiguous to National Forest land which was determined to be non-wilderness during the RARE II process.

One small area of state land provides an irregular configuration to the west boundary of the unit. The state section is not serviced by a road, however, a way leads from the eastern boundary of the unit to the northeast corner of the state section.

NATURALNESS:

The inventory identified several imprints of man within the unit--3.5 miles of ways, two water developments along the eastern boundary road, and a garbage dump on the northern periphery of the unit

The location, number, and distribution of these imprints of man, in combination with topographic and vegetative screening, make substantially unnoticeable in the unit as a whole.

SOLITUDE:

The unit is divided into two types of topographic regions:

- The canyon of the East Fork of the Jarbidge River and the tributary canyon of Dave Creek. The East Fork is a steep-walled, gently curving canyon characterized by rock outcrops and steep talus slopes. Scattered stands of juniper, mahogany and aspen are found on the canyon floor and on some slopes. At the southern end of the unit the canyon drops as much as 1,000 feet below the surrounding plateau. The canyon of Dave Creek has 300-foot cliffs and talus slopes near its confluence with the East Fork of the Jarbidge River. South toward the headwaters of Dave Creek the slopes become less severe. Dense riparian vegetation is found adjacent to the stream channels in both canyons.
- The gently sloping sagebrush bench which is dissected by the East Fork of the Jarbidge River and Dave Creek. The bench slopes upward to the Jarbidge Mountains, which lie directly south of the unit. Vegetation is dominated by low-growing sagebrush and other northern desert shrub and grass species. In sheltered pockets aspen groves are frequently encountered. Native grasses are abundant.

The inventory determined that the topographic relief of the unit concentrates or channels visitors into short canyon sections and does not provide adequate screening of external influences or other visitor groups on the small sagebrush plateau areas.

The scenic character of the East Fork of the Jarbidge River would be the primary attraction for visitors to the unit. While dense riparian vegetation provides good screening, the short four-mile canyon and its relatively linear character increases the likelihood that visitors would frequently encounter each other. In the northern portion of the canyon, powerlines and the Murphy Hot Springs Road are frequently seen. Despite the screening of the riparian areas, the short length of canyons result in a negative corridor effect particularly in light of the difficulty of visitors to disperse onto surrounding plateaus because of steep canyon topography.

On the surrounding bench, topographic and vegetative screening is inadequate to shield visitors from each other. From numerous points on the sloping plateau it is possible to see most of the remainder of the unit. The sloping terrain and small size of the unit negate any vegetative screening potential the low growing sagebrush may have. Throughout the northern portion of the bench, external imprints of man are readily seen. Because of the lack of topographic features, these imprints are dominant features of the landscape.

The small size of the unit, combined with a general lack of topographic and vegetative screening, and the corridor effect in the short, linear canyon area render the opportunities for solitude less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The inventory determined that the difficult mobility in or out of the canyon, the unit's small size, the short section of scenic river canyon, and the visual impact of external influences of man combine to deny visitors a sense of unconfined recreation.

The short four-mile section of the East Fork of the Jarbidge River contains scenic and recreation attractions. However, this canyon is extremely short and mobility out the river canyon is difficult because of the steep topography.

On the bench, the primary scenic attractions are vistas to the canyon below. Visitors along the canyon rim would also be aware of substantial external imprints of man in the near distance. Along many portions of the rim, steep cliffs prevent visitors from entering the canyon and effectively channel them along narrow rim areas.

Despite the scenic quality of the river canyon, the unit's small size, the number of external intrusions, and the corridor effect of the short length of canyon render opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The canyon of the East Fork of the Jarbidge River and vistas from the plateau are of exceptional scenic value. The unit has wildlife value as winter range for mule deer.

RECOMMENDATION:

The unit does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area due to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

UPPER BRUNEAU RIVER
ID-17-19

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains 21,711 acres of BLM land and is located in both Idaho and Nevada. This acreage figure differs from the 22,797 acres used in earlier reports, due to a more accurate acreage calculation. The unit has a triangular configuration 11 miles long and up to seven miles wide. Approximately one half the unit is in Nevada; however, the unit is administered entirely by Idaho BLM.

Two cherry stem road systems penetrate into the west boundary of the unit; a total of 4.5 miles.

One state section is contained within the boundaries of the unit. This section is not serviced by a road; however, two ways connect the eastern side of the section with the unit's eastern boundary road.

A band of private land along the river canyon cuts well into the core of the unit to create a configuration problem in the southwest portion.

NATURALNESS:

The inventory identified 20 miles of ways, 2 1/2 miles of fence line, nine water developments (located on the western and southern boundaries), and one partially constructed livestock trail within the unit.

The southwestern land finger of the unit, almost segmented from the remainder of the unit by a corridor of private property, contains 2 1/2 miles of ways, and three water developments. Agriculturally developed land along the private corridor is visible from within the unit. The location, number, and distribution of these imprints of man make them substantially noticeable. A 3,650-acre parcel should be dropped from further consideration.

In the southeastern portion of the unit, a 2,350-acre parcel contains eight miles of ways, one mile of fence line, and a stock reservoir. The imprints of man are substantially noticeable in this portion and it should also be dropped from further consideration.

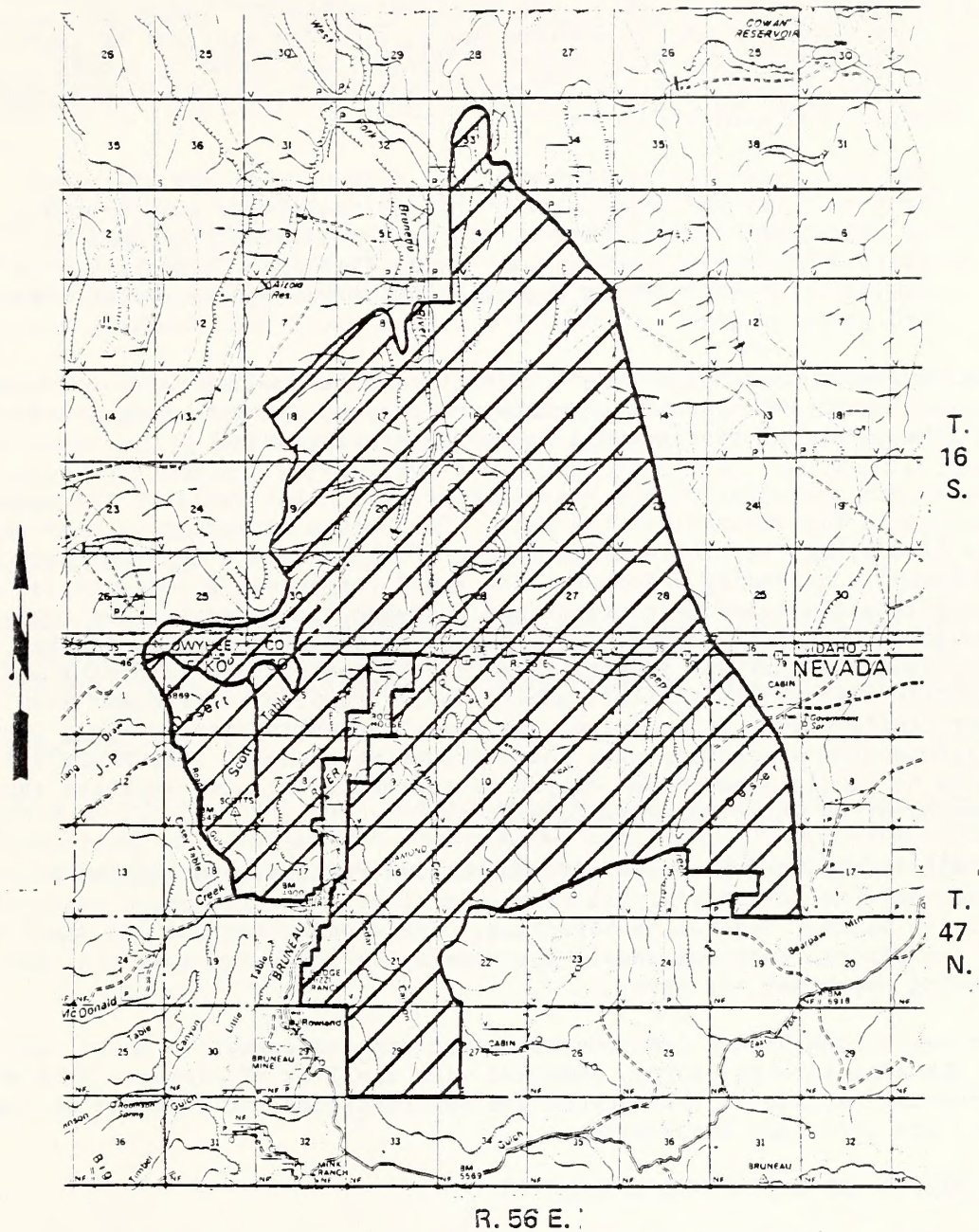
The location, number, and distribution of the remaining imprints of man, in combination with topographic and vegetative screening, make them substantially unnoticeable in 15,711 acres of the unit. None of the imprints of man are located within the major corridor of travel. Visual contact would be extremely localized because of a combination of topographic and vegetative screening.

SOLITUDE:

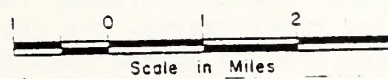
The unit is divided into two types of topographic regions:

UPPER BRUNEAU RIVER
ID-17-19



R. 7 E.



R. 56 E.



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

- The canyon of the West Fork Bruneau River and the tributary canyon of Deep Creek. The West Fork Bruneau River contains a series of irregular benches leading to a vertical-walled canyon. The canyon's greatest depth within the unit is approximately 700 feet. The shallower tributary canyon of Deep Creek enters the Bruneau Canyon from the east and is four miles long. Scattered stands of juniper are found on slopes of the canyons. Willows, juniper, and other riparian vegetation occupy the canyon bottoms.
- The high sagebrush plateau which is dissected by the West Fork Bruneau River and Deep Creek. The plateau slopes gently upward to the south. In the extreme southern portion of the unit the plateau gives way to moderately steep foothills. Vegetation is dominated by low growing sagebrush and other northern desert shrub and grass species.

The inventory determined that topographic relief concentrates or channels visitors into short canyon sections and does not provide adequate screening of other visitors on the small sagebrush plateau areas.

The scenic character of the West Fork Bruneau River would be the primary attraction for visitors to the unit. The broken irregular benches and the meandering, vertical-walled canyon afford moderate to excellent topographic screening. However, the sheer canyon walls concentrate visitors along a narrow corridor and increase the potential for contact. The short amount of canyon (3 1/2 miles) in public ownership further increases the corridor effect. Despite the topographic screening and dense riparian vegetation, visitor contact would probably be frequent even with very limited use. In addition, the steep canyon topography would prevent visitors from dispersing onto the surrounding plateau. The short 3 1/2 miles of public land in the canyon is segmented into two separate shorter lengths by an intervening state section.

On the surrounding plateau, topographic and vegetative screening is inadequate to shield visitors from each other. The low shrub vegetation affords minimal vegetative screening. The sloping terrain and small size of the plateau sections negate any vegetative screening potential low growing sagebrush may have.

Because of the broken land ownership pattern and segmented short lengths of BLM-administered canyon, combined with the lack of adequate size and screening outside of the canyon, the opportunities for solitude in the unit are less than outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The inventory determined that the unit's size, the relatively short segmented section of BLM-administered river canyon, the limited mobility and dispersion into and out of the canyon, and the broken land ownership pattern combine to give visitors a sense of confinement.

The short sections of the West Fork Bruneau River contained in the unit provide a scenic and recreational attraction. The longer 2 1/4 mile section is isolated by the state section to the north and a narrow finger of private land jutting into the unit boundary from the south. Steep topography makes access to the canyon from the plateau very difficult. These short segmented sections of BLM-administered canyon are not sufficiently large to negate the sense of confinement created by topographic and land ownership barriers. The mixed ownership pattern in the West Fork Bruneau River Canyon is such that outstanding opportunities for recreation are negated.

On the surrounding plateaus, visitors would be congregated along the canyon rims where scenic vistas are best. Agricultural developments on private land are visible from many portions of the southern canyon rim. Along most of the rim, steep cliffs prevent visitors from entering the canyon and effectively channel them along narrow corridors.

Despite the scenic quality of the river canyon and recreation attractions within the canyon, opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not outstanding because of the strong negative corridor effect of the short length of canyon, broken land ownership patterns, and poor access to the canyon.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The canyon of the West Fork Bruneau River and vistas from the plateau are of exceptional scenic value. The area has wildlife value as critical winter range for mule deer. Significant cultural resource values exist in the area.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although a portion of the unit meets the naturalness criteria, the unit is not recommended as a Wilderness Study Area, due to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SOUTH FORK OWYHEE RIVER

ID-16-53

NV-010-103A

NV-010-103

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains a total of 67,900 acres of BLM land with land in both Idaho (48,060 acres) and Nevada (19,840 acres). These acreage figures differ from those used earlier due to a more accurate calculation of acreage. The Nevada units were previously called "Devil's Corral." The unit has a rectangular configuration approximately 20 by 6 miles with a large southwest land finger.

Six cherry stem roads penetrate into the Idaho portion of the unit. In the Nevada portion a cherry stem road leaves the pipeline forming the southern boundary of the unit and parallels the western edge of the canyon rim for one mile. Adjacent to it another road parallels the canyon rim for five miles, terminating at a bladed fence line $3/4$ miles north of the Nevada-Idaho border. The total mileage of cherry stem roads is 14 miles.

Identification of two low standard roads during the Nevada initial inventory isolated two subunits in the southwestern portion. The Idaho inventory confirmed the connection with these roads. The fence line system that forms the southwest boundary of the unit is $3/4$ miles north of the state border. The larger subunit contains 3,100 acres in Idaho and 8,960 acres in Nevada (NV-010-103). The smaller subunit contains 900 acres in Idaho and 2,800 acres in Nevada for a total of 3,700 acres. This smaller subunit is bounded by roads to the east and west, a bladed fence line to the north, and a Southwest Gas Corporation pipeline to the south. It fails to meet the size criteria and should be dropped from further consideration.

In the Nevada portion of the unit a 700-acre triangular parcel is bounded by a road to the west, a bladed fence line to the north along the Nevada-Idaho stateline, and the gas pipeline to the southeast. This parcel should also be dropped since it does not meet the size criteria.

An additional low standard road was identified during the inventory in the northeast periphery of the unit. This road segments 650 acres which do not meet the size criteria.

Two state sections are within the boundaries of the unit. Neither are serviced by roads, however, a way from one of the cherry stem roads provides access to one of the state sections.

A 160-acre parcel of private land is in the canyon bottom at Coyote Hole. The private parcel is serviced by a short cherry stem road and is outside the boundary of the unit.

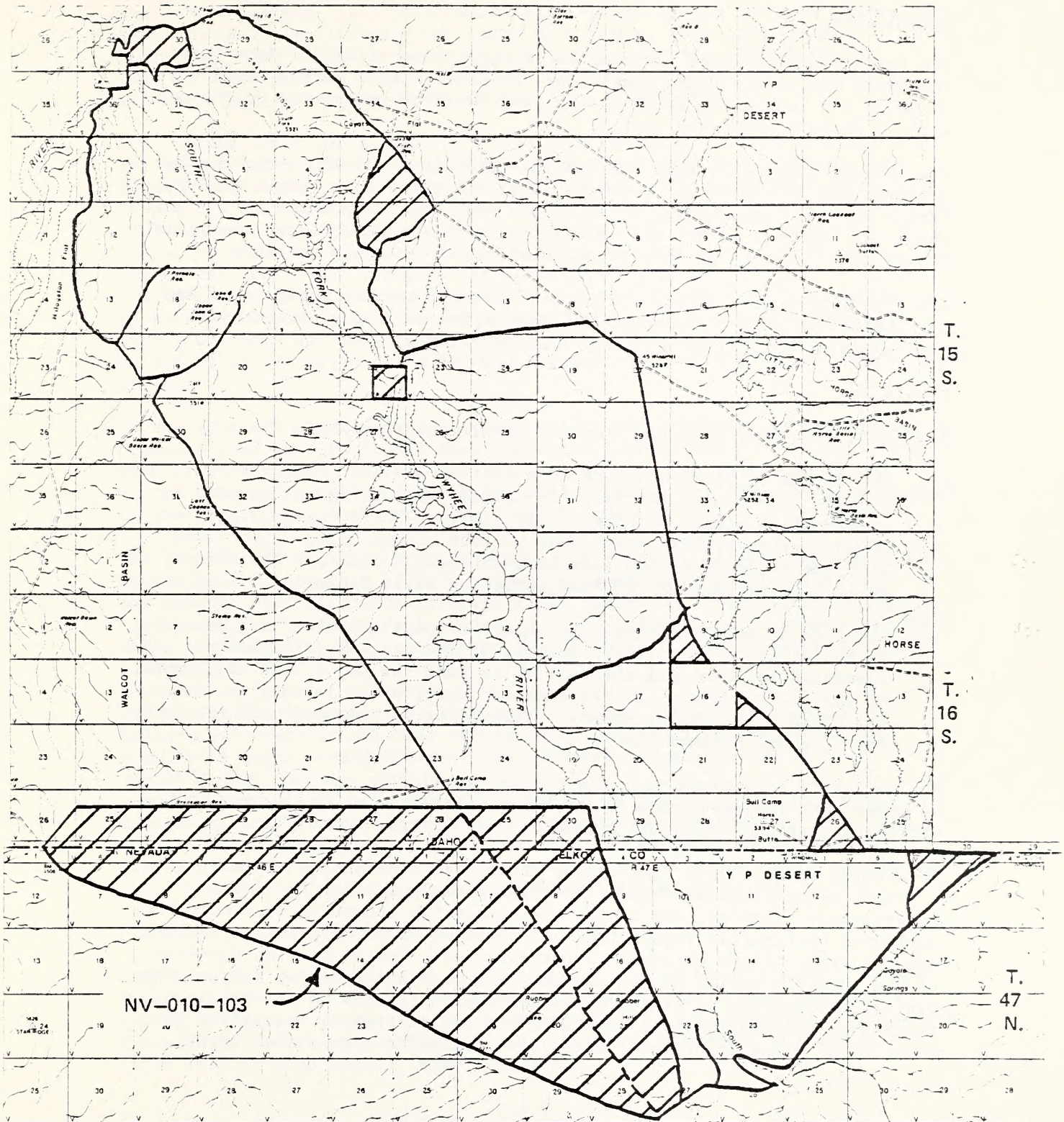
SOUTH FORK OUYHEE RIVER

ID-16-53

NV-010-103A

R. 4 W.

R. 3 W.



R. 46 E.

R. 47 E.

0 1 2 3

Scale in Miles

LEGEND



WILDERNESS STUDY AREA



AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

NATURALNESS:

The inventory identified eight miles of ways, five miles of fence line including the bladed fence line along the Nevada-Idaho border, five stock ponds, and a landing strip in the extreme northern end of the unit along along a short cherry stem road.

The landing strip adversely affects the naturalness of 400 acres in the northern end of the unit. Two ways, a bladed fence line, and a windmill form a 300-acre triangular parcel in the southeastern portion of the unit where the imprints of man are substantially noticeable. These two parcels should be eliminated as they do not meet the naturalness criteria.

The location, number, and distribution of the remaining imprints of man, in combination with topographic and vegetative screening, make them substantially unnoticeable in the unit as a whole.

SOLITUDE:

The unit is divided into two types of topographic regions:

- The canyon of the South Fork Owyhee River and its associated breaks. The canyon is typically narrow, meandering and bounded by sheer-walled cliffs or steep talus slopes. The steeper slopes occur in the northern downstream portion of the unit. Associated with the canyon are countless eroding rock pinnacles. The sheer walls rise as high as 700 feet above the river banks.
- The flat to moderately rolling sagebrush plateau which is bisected by the river. The northern portion of the plateau is lightly dissected by erosional channels which form the major side drainages of the river canyon. In the southern portion the terrain is flatter, and dissecting less prominent. Vegetation is sagebrush and northern desert plant communities.

The inventory determined that the rugged, meandering canyons, the 20 miles of river, and the large size of the unit provide excellent screening for visitor groups and excellent potential for dispersed use.

The canyon of the South Fork Owyhee River does concentrate visitors into a single major corridor thereby increasing the potential for visitor interaction. However, the length and meandering character of the canyon, screening by riparian vegetation, and constant rates of travel for river users lessen visitor contacts in the corridor. The meandering character of the canyon's walls, as well as the river bed and adjacent talus slopes, provide topographic screening between groups which may be travelling close together. The canyon walls and river bed are so tightly meandering that river level views up or down canyon are limited to less than 1/2 mile.

West of the canyon numerous draws provide access to and from the river. Since three draws terminate at cherry stem roads, they provide good opportunity for visitors to enter or leave the canyon, dispersing use away from the river corridor. Access over the rimrock from the eastern and western plateau is also relatively easy in many areas.

The rolling sagebrush plateau provides good opportunities for solitude. In the northern portion the erosional channels create opportunities for topographic screening. On the southern plateau topography is insufficient to provide visual screening. Vegetation throughout the plateau is dominated by low growing sagebrush. Because of the sense of monotony generated by travel across open sagebrush flats, visitor use would concentrate along the rim of the South Fork Owyhee River where views are spectacular. However, the numerous drainages into the canyon and easy access over the rimrock in many areas would diminish the corridor effect by dispersing visitors into the canyon and away from the rim. The distance along the rim would be sufficient to allow low sagebrush vegetation to effectively screen visitor groups.

In the southern portion narrow configuration and proximity of the southwest boundary road make it likely that vehicular traffic would be visible from much of the plateau. Because of the lack of access points into or out of the canyon in this portion of the unit, visitor use would be concentrated in the canyon itself away from external influences.

The 12,060-acre subunit in the southwestern portion, paralleling the Idaho-Nevada border, does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area is very flat with no topographic variation. Vegetation is big sagebrush, two to three feet in height. The absence of topographic relief makes opportunities for solitude only good in this subunit because of the limited size.

Two narrow thumbs created by boundary roads and a state section on the eastern periphery of the unit should be eliminated from consideration because of their configuration. The combined acreage is 200 acres.

Because of the large size and configuration of the unit, the presence of topographic and vegetative screening in the major corridors of use, the ability of topography and the natural flow of the river to disperse or segregate visitor use, and the lack of external influences over most of the unit, the unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

The inventory determined that the unit offers exceptionally scenic natural features and a diversity of topographic landforms which would provide a strong recreation attraction to those interested in backpacking, sightseeing, photography, wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, and river running with kayak, canoe, or raft.

The South Fork Owyhee River canyon within the unit has three distinct topographic features. Sheer-walled, precipitous cliffs alternate with steep talus slopes. Supplementing the 700-foot vertical cliffs are countless basalt pinnacles in a myriad of different shapes.

In the northern portion of the unit the red rimrock, blue skies and flowing water create a colorful contrast to the upstream area where grays and greens dominate the landscape. The heavily eroded rock landscapes, steep talus slopes, and the dominance of subdued grays and greens all combine to heighten a sense of isolation. Traveling the river corridor the visitor is constantly aware of the forces of nature that have created the severely eroded landscape.

The high sheer walls of the canyon can give one a sense of confinement and restricted mobility. However, the number of miles of canyon and the natural movement of the river negate the confinement and restricted mobility caused by the canyon walls.

The talus lined draws on the western side of the canyon provide opportunities to escape the confinement of sheer walls. The slopes can be climbed to the rimrock. Mobility within the bottom of the canyon is enhanced by trails and the sparseness of heavy riparian vegetation.

Because travel across the sagebrush plateau would result in a sense of monotony, visitors in the plateau area would be concentrated in the vicinity of the canyon rim. The ease of mobility across the plateau provides numerous opportunities for spectacular vistas of the canyon. The lack of major tributaries and associated side canyons contribute to the ease of mobility for visitors travelling parallel to the river.

The challenge and excitement of whitewater rapids rated at Class I or II adds significantly to the recreational experience of the unit as a whole. Class II rapids provide the excitement of whitewater, but are suitable for boaters with experience, but only moderate levels of expertise.

The Nevada inventory determined that the small size, uniform character and lack of recreational attractions in the southwestern 12,060-acre subunit render it less than outstanding in recreation opportunities.

The two narrow thumbs eliminated because they lack opportunities for outstanding solitude also lack potential for outstanding recreation because of their corridor configuration.

Because of the diversity of natural features, the presence of exceptionally scenic natural features, the ease of mobility throughout the unit, and the number of miles of canyon in the unit, the unit offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The area contains scenic, cultural and ecological values. Scenic features associated with the South Fork Owyhee River canyon have been described in the solitude and recreation portions. Archaeological resources have

been found along the river. The unit is a year round habitat for mule deer and antelope and has been identified as important habitat for mountain quail, a sensitive species. The unit is in an area that is being studied as a bighorn sheep release site.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although three portions of the unit fail to meet the size criteria (a total of 5,050 acres), portions of the unit fail to meet the naturalness criteria (700 acres), and 12,260 acres fail to meet the solitude and the recreation criteria, a unit of 49,890 acres is identified as a Wilderness Study Area. This study area includes 42,510 acres in Idaho and 7,380 acres in Nevada. The total acreage not meeting the wilderness criteria is 18,010 acres (5,550 acres in Idaho and 12,460 acres in Nevada).

NEVADA - IDAHO - UTAH

The following unit contains BLM lands in Nevada, Idaho, and Utah and is recommended as lacking in wilderness characteristics:

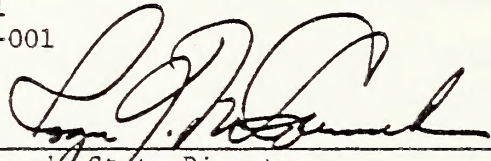
Little Goose Creek

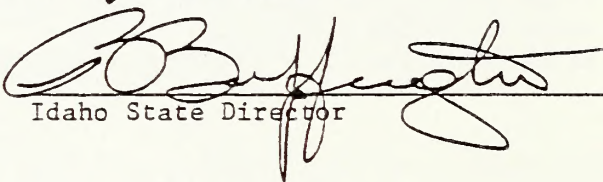
NV-010-164

ID-22-1


UT-020-001

Associate


Nevada State Director


Idaho State Director

/s/ Robert O. Buffington

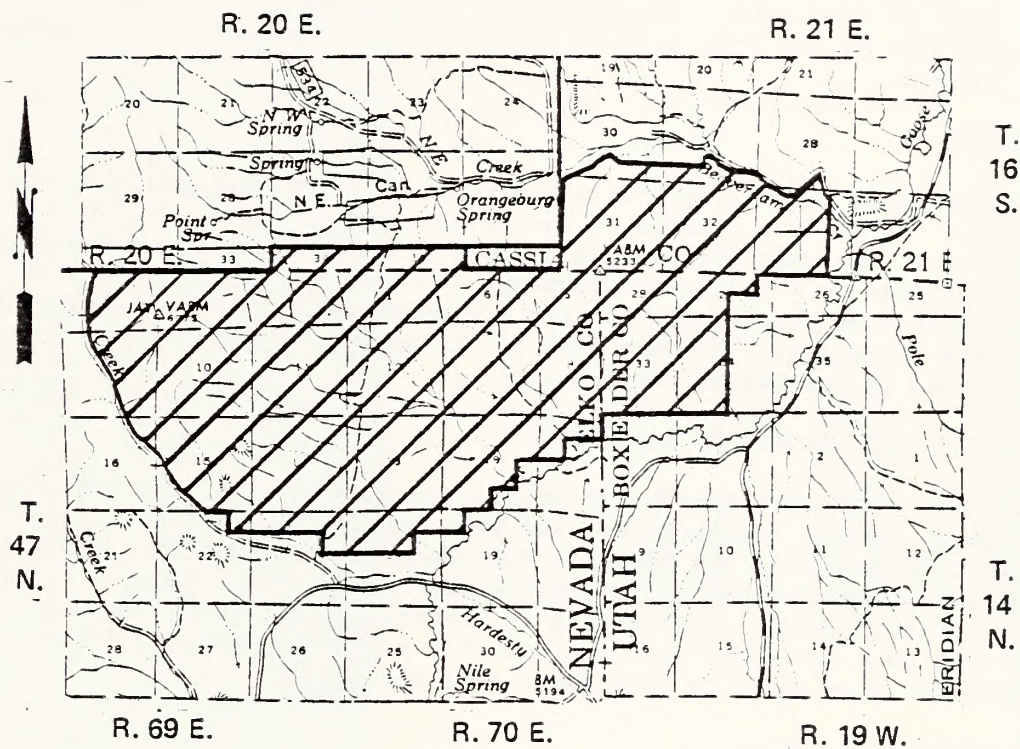
 for Utah State Director

LITTLE GOOSE CREEK



NV-010-164

ID-22-1

UT-020-001



LEGEND

-  WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
-  AREA WITHOUT CHARACTERISTICS

LITTLE GOOSE CREEK

NV-010-164

ID-22-1

UT-020-001

SIZE AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The unit contains a total of 11,350 acres of BLM land; 7,695 acres in Nevada, 2,325 acres in two parcels in Idaho, and 1,330 acres in Utah. The unit is about 90 miles northeast of Elko, Nevada. Topography consists of gentle rolling hills. Vegetation includes low-growing big sagebrush with scattered juniper and pinyon pine at higher elevations.

NATURALNESS:

Within the unit are some 15 miles of two track ways and approximately six miles of fenceline. These imprints of man are substantially unnoticeable in the unit as a whole and do not detract from the apparent naturalness.

SOLITUDE:

The topography is rolling, but not diverse. The highest point in the unit (in the western portion of the Nevada acreage) is 6,375 feet. The majority of the unit varies from 5,200 feet to 5,600 feet. The rolling hills provide only moderate screening. The low-growing sagebrush provides poor vegetative screening. Juniper are scattered, thus providing only moderate screening. The unit does not offer opportunities for solitude that could be considered outstanding.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION:

Potential recreation activities include hunting, hiking, camping, horseback riding, rockhounding, and photography. No real challenging terrain is available for hiking. Horseback riding and hiking would be limited in duration due to the unit's small size. Deer hunting could be considered good. Rockhounding is considered average in the unit. The unit does not offer opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation that could be considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES:

The only known supplemental value is habitat for two sensitive species - the western burrowing owl and ferruginous hawk.

RECOMMENDATION:

Although the unit is natural in character, it does not qualify as a Wilderness Study Area because it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Borrower's	
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